



KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA

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Vol 522





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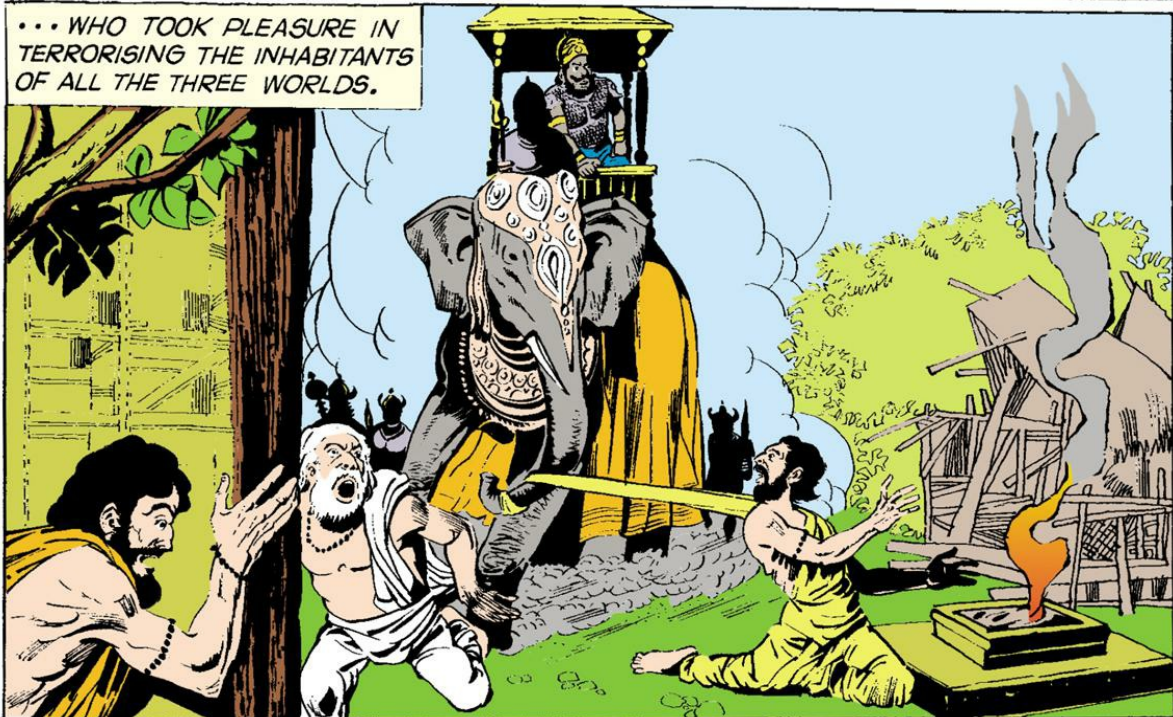
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KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA



IN HIS VARAHA AVATAR,*VISHNU LIFTED BHOOMI DEVI FROM THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN. SOON AFTER THAT A SON WAS BORN TO BHOOMI DEVI. HE CAME TO BE KNOWN AS NARAKASURA. THOUGH HE WAS THE SON OF A DIVINITY AND A VIRTUOUS MOTHER, NARAKA UNFORTUNATELY TURNED OUT TO BE A VICIOUS ASURA...

...WHO TOOK PLEASURE IN TERRORISING THE INHABITANTS OF ALL THE THREE WORLDS.



* BOAR INCARNATION

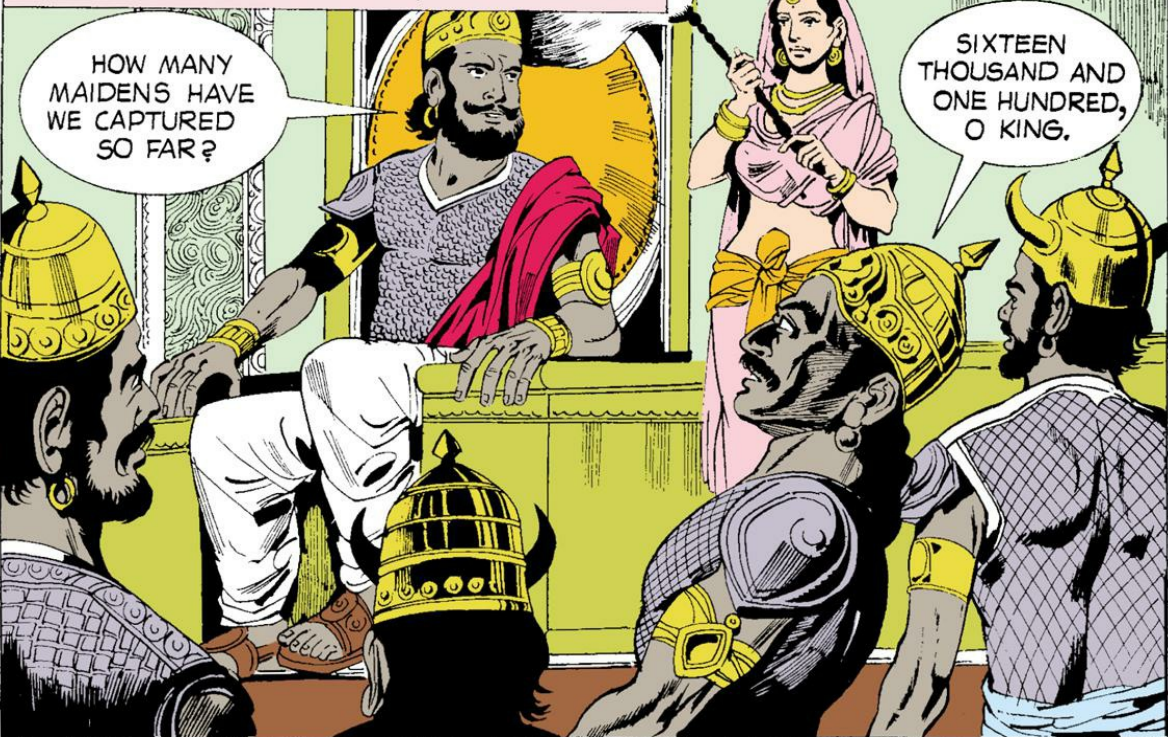
KINGS AND SAGES, RAKSHASAS AND DEVAS ALIKE, FEARED HIM.

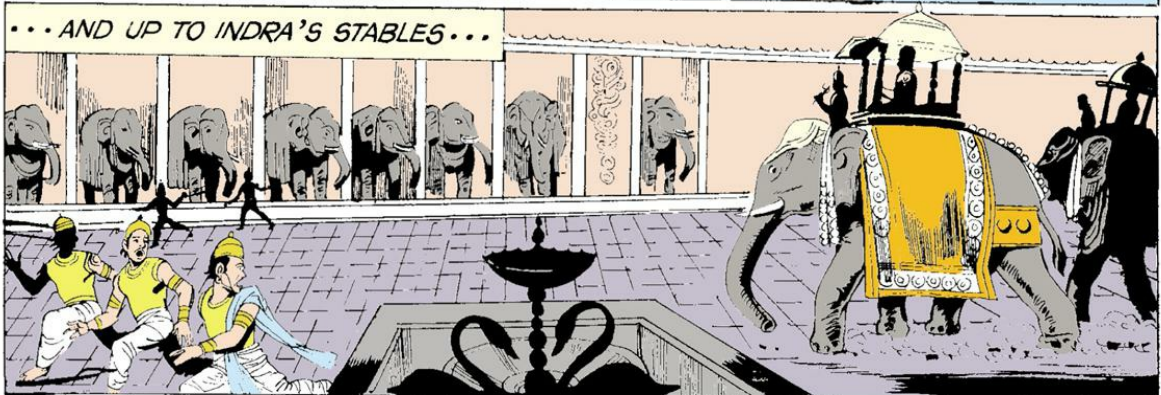
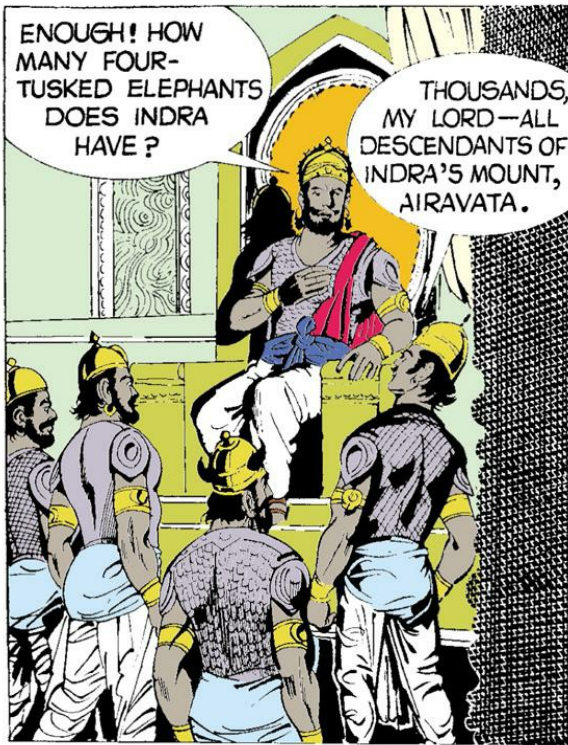


BUT THE GUARDS WERE HELPLESS AGAINST NARAKA AND HIS RUTHLESS HORDES.



LATER, AT NARAKA'S CAPITAL, PRAGJYOTISHA—

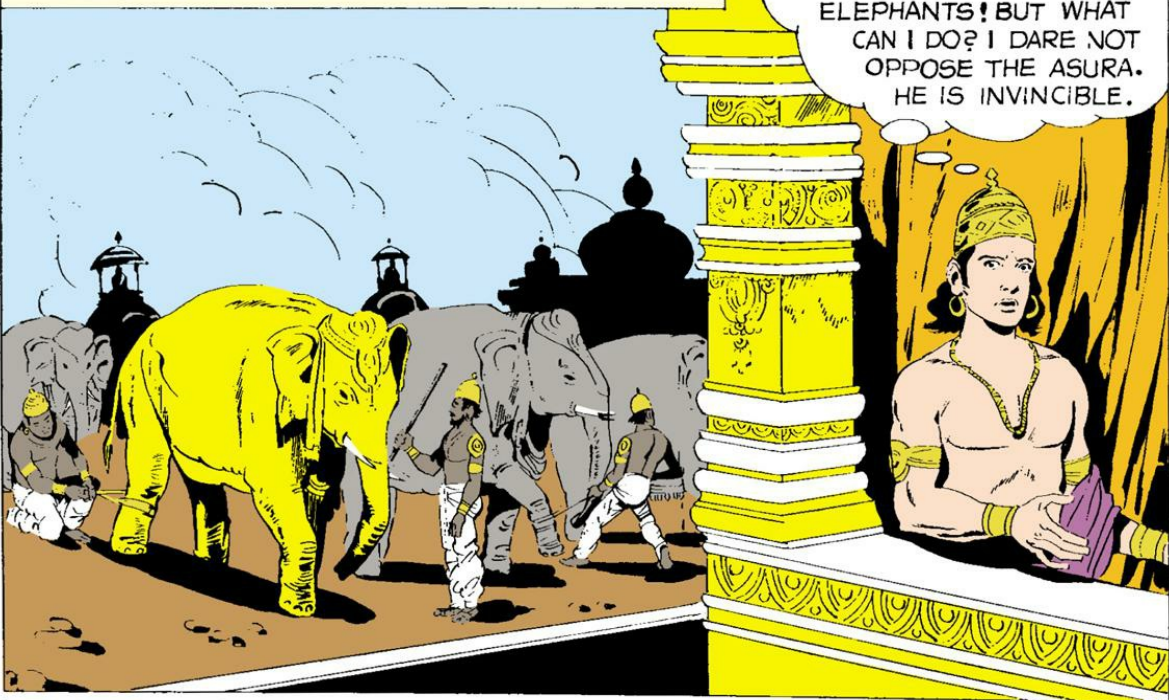




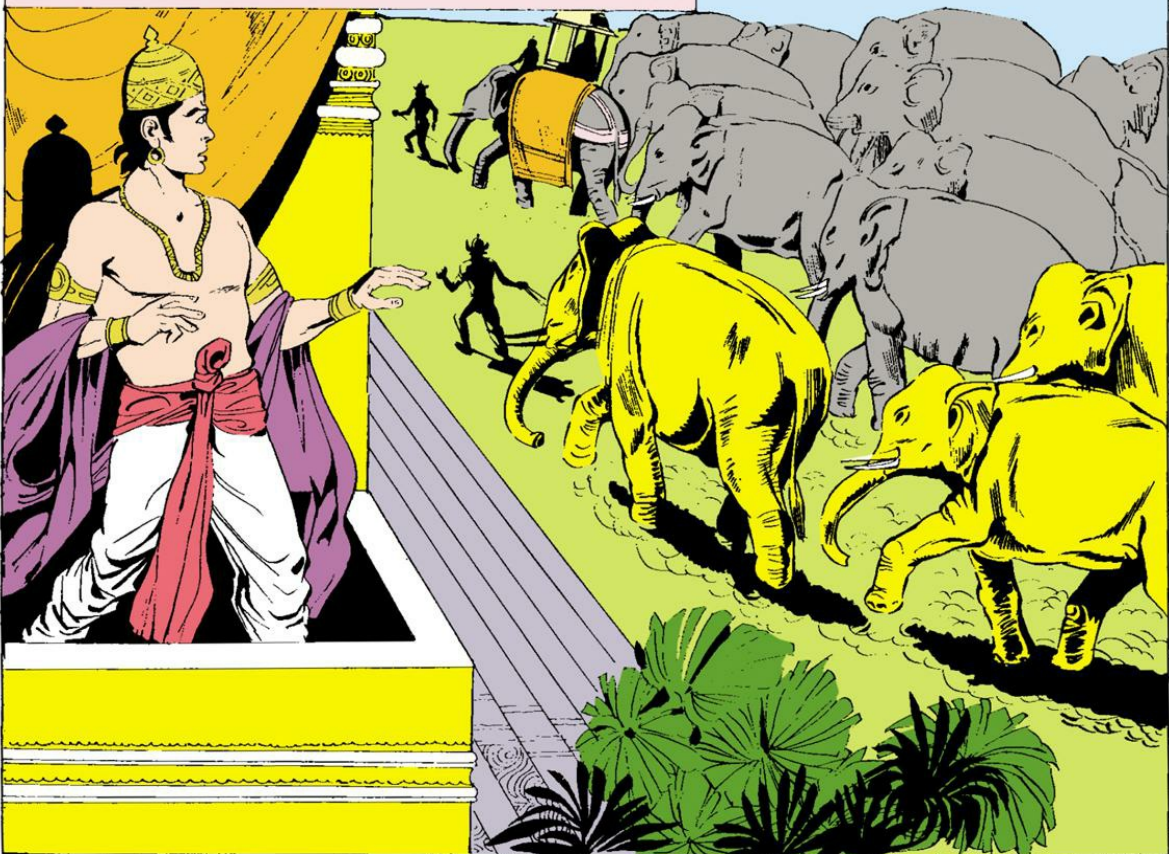
*INDRA'S CAPITAL

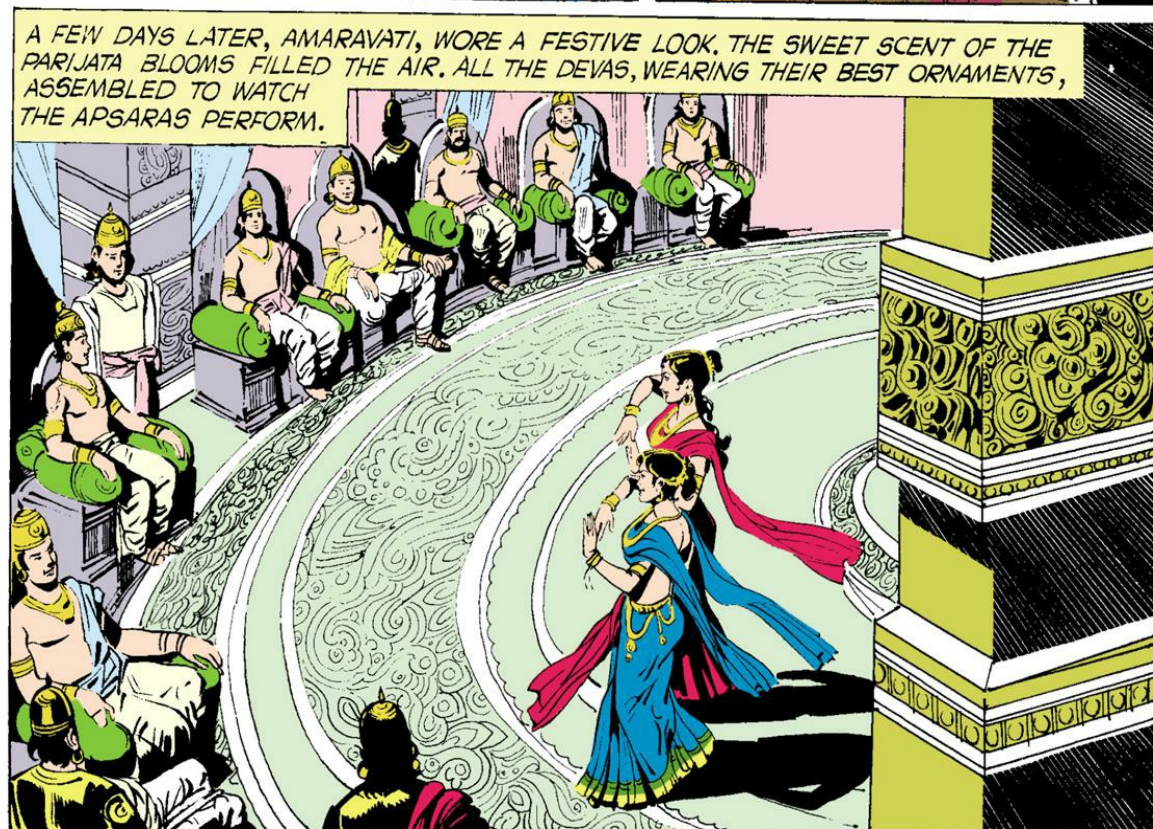
... INDRA COULD ONLY FUME WITH IMPOTENT FURY.

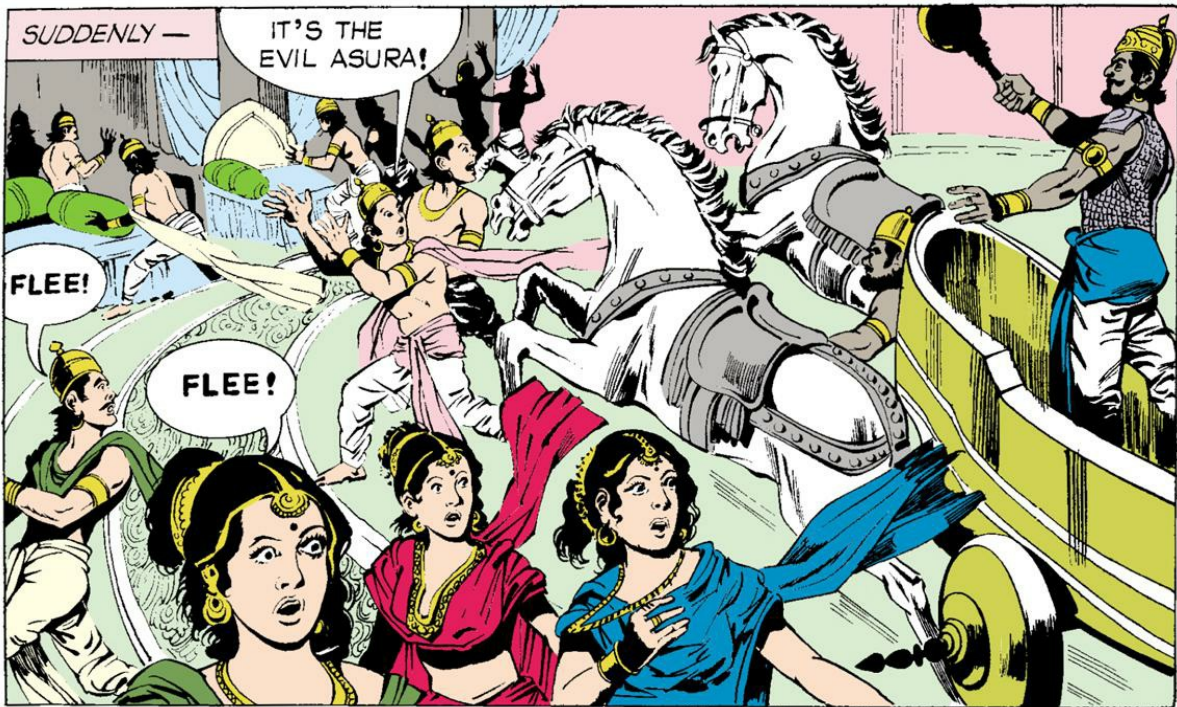
HE'S TAKING AWAY MY
ELEPHANTS! BUT WHAT
CAN I DO? I DARE NOT
OPPOSE THE ASURA.
HE IS INVINCIBLE.



THUS DID THE WICKED NARAKA HARASS THE DEVAS.







AS THE DEVAS TRIED TO ESCAPE, NARAKASURA'S HORDES SWOOPED DOWN ON THEM.



*LORD OF THE HYDROSPHERE

AS NARAKA CHARGED TOWARDS VARUNA, A DAZZLING FLASH BLINDED HIM FOR A MOMENT.



THE MOTHER OF THE DEVAS HAS WORN HER PRECIOUS EAR-RINGS!

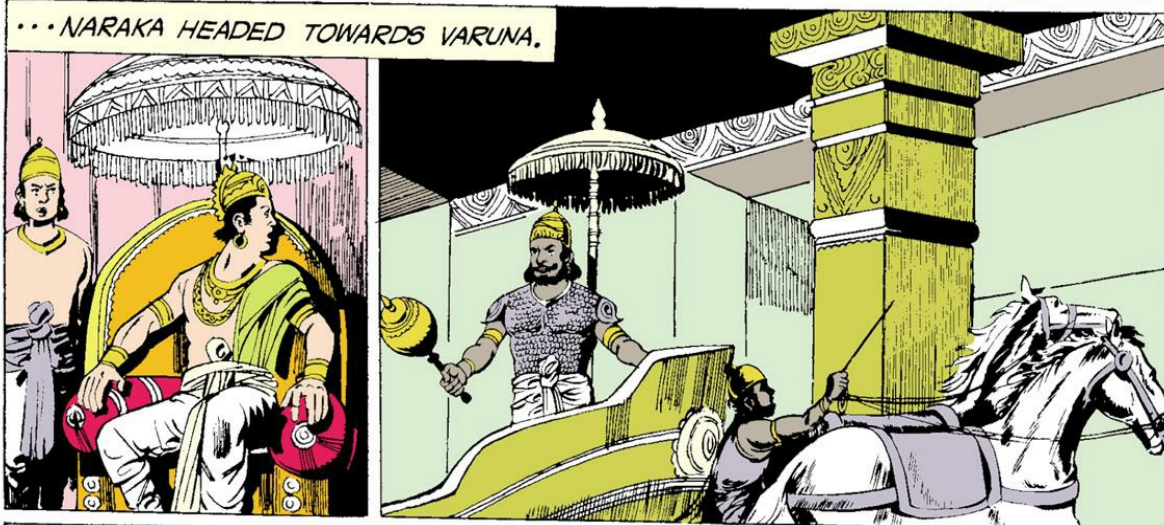
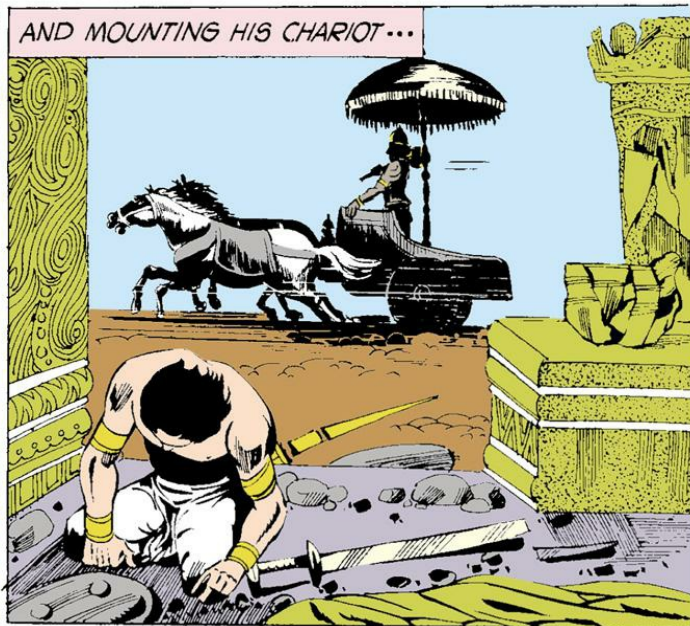


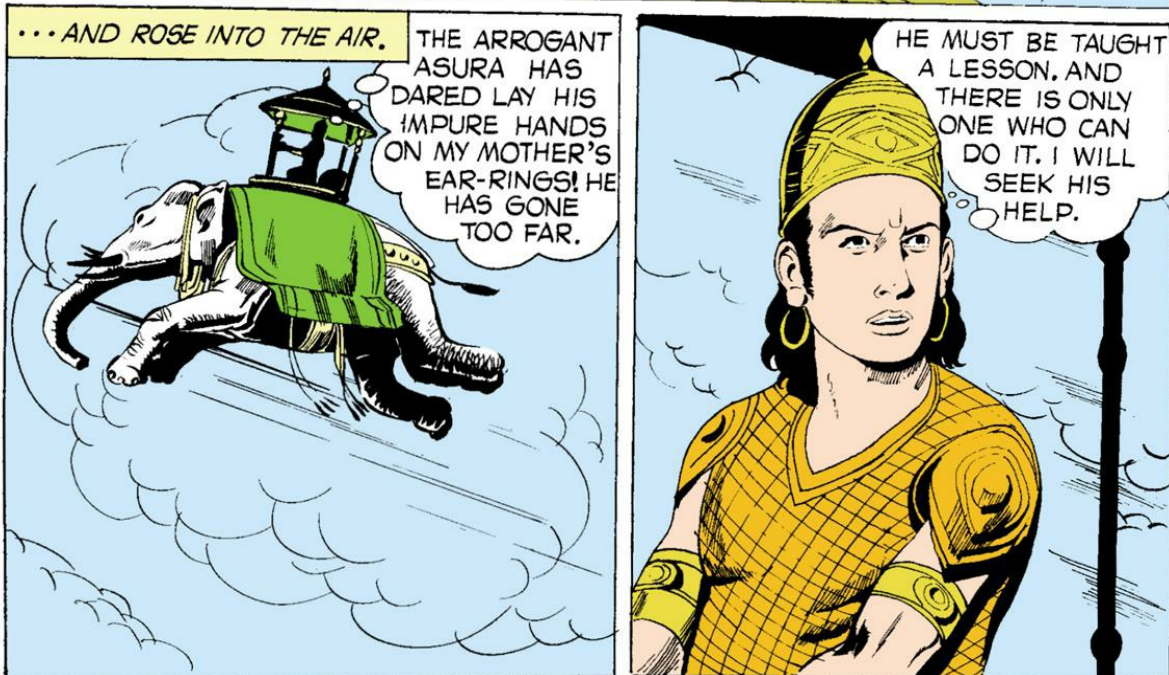
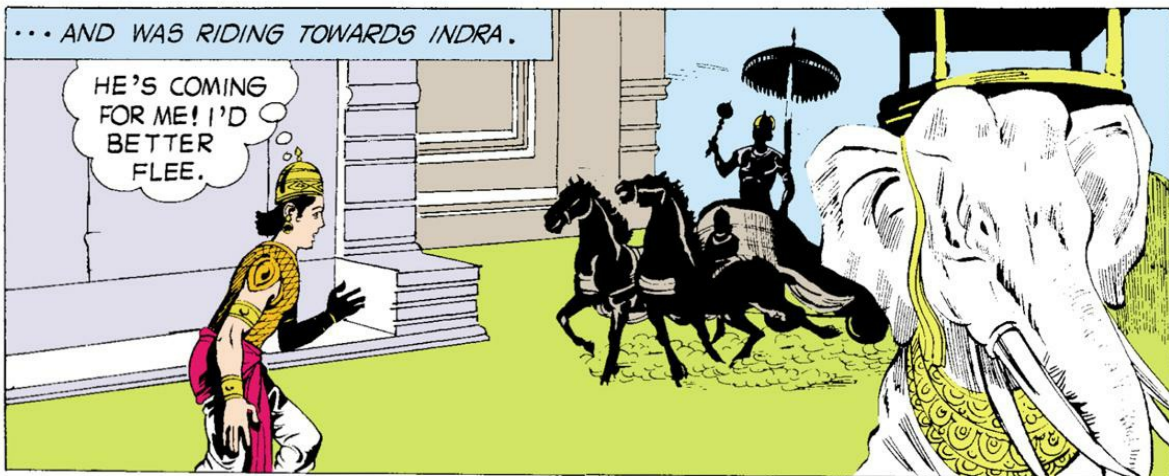
THOSE EAR-RINGS
LACK LUSTRE ON
YOU, O MOTHER
OF THE COW-
ARDLY DEVAS.



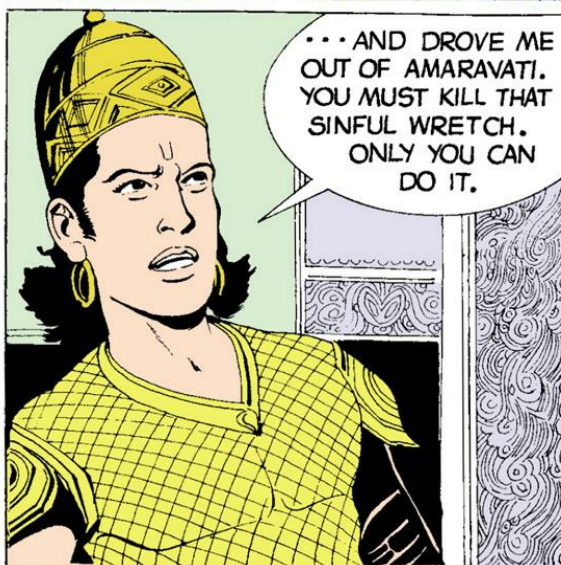
HE RUSHED FORWARD AND SNATCHED THE
EAR-RINGS.

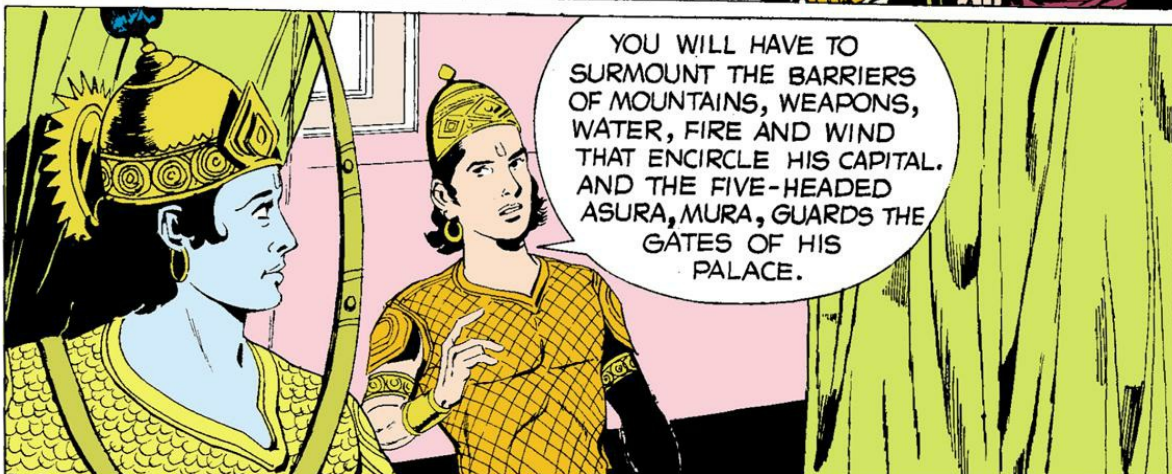
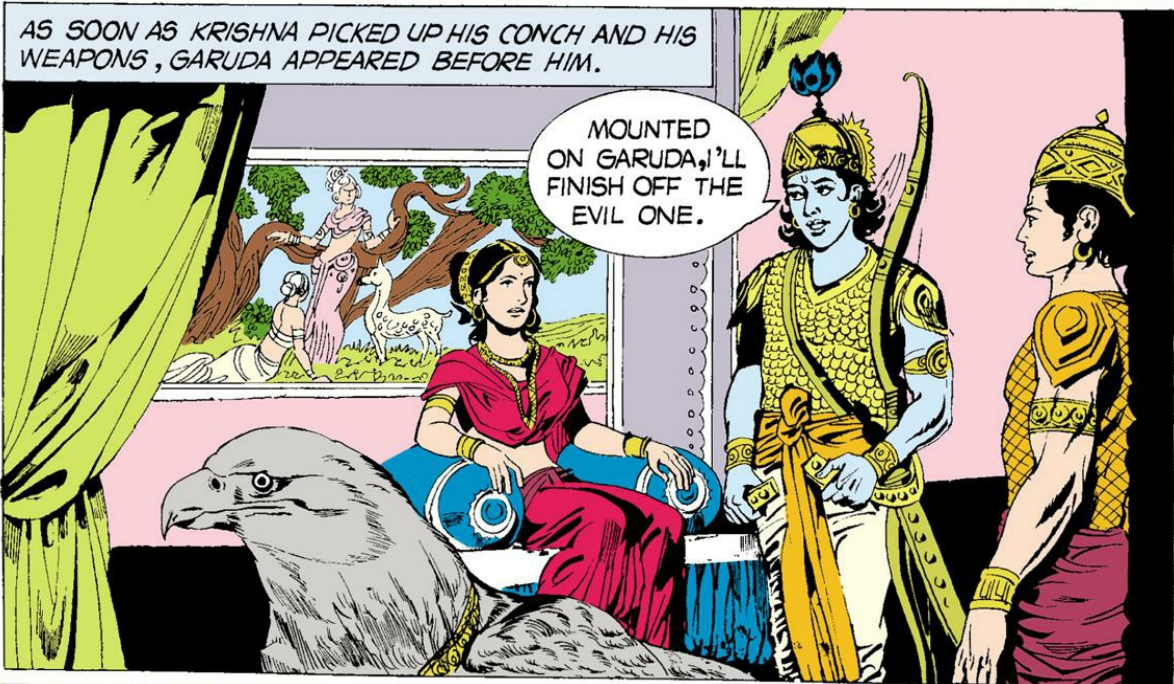
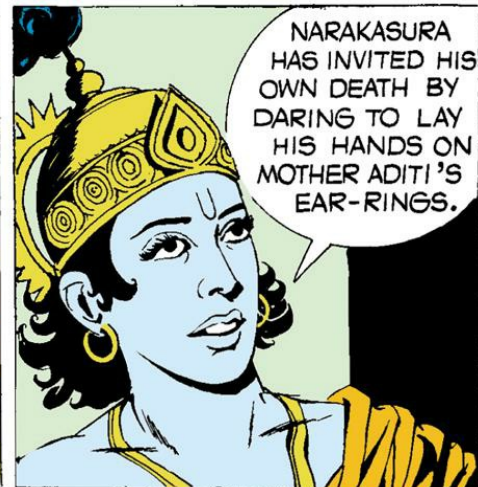






WHEN AN AGITATED INDRA BURST INTO THE PALACE AT DWARAKA, KRISHNA WAS SEATED WITH SATYABHAMA.





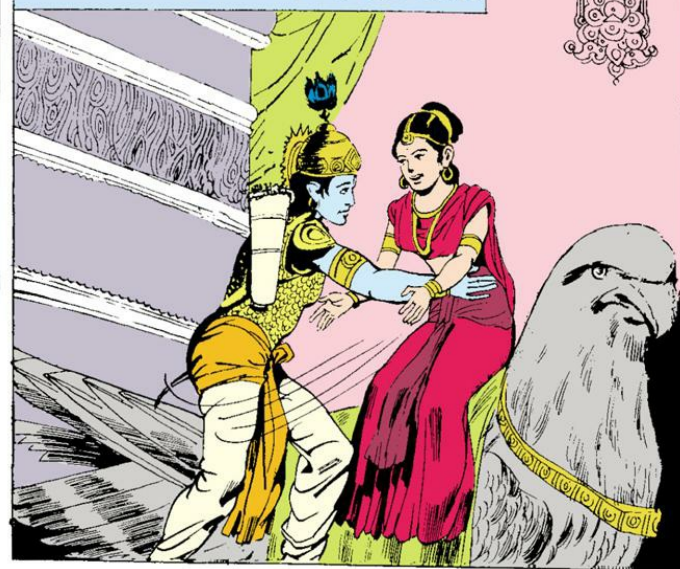
AS KRISHNA WAS ABOUT TO TELL INDRA THAT HE WAS AWARE OF ALL THAT, HE SAW SATYABHAMA POUTING.



WITHOUT UTTERING A WORD, HE CAUGHT THE PLEASANTLY SURPRISED SATYABHAMA BY THE WAIST...



...AND SWUNG HER ONTO GARUDA.



HE THEN SEATED HIMSELF BEHIND HER.



GARUDA SOARED INTO THE AIR.



AS THEY NEARED PRAGJYOTISHA, GARUDA'S BEAK SUDDENLY HIT SOMETHING HARD.



WHICHEVER WAY HE TURNED, HUGE MOUNTAINS ROSE BEFORE HIM, BLOCKING HIS PATH.



KRISHNA WAS UNPERTURBED. HE SWUNG OUT HIS MACE...



... AND WITHIN MINUTES THE MOUNTAINS WERE SHATTERED.



FILLED WITH RENEWED ENERGY, GARUDA FLEW ON.



SUDDENLY —



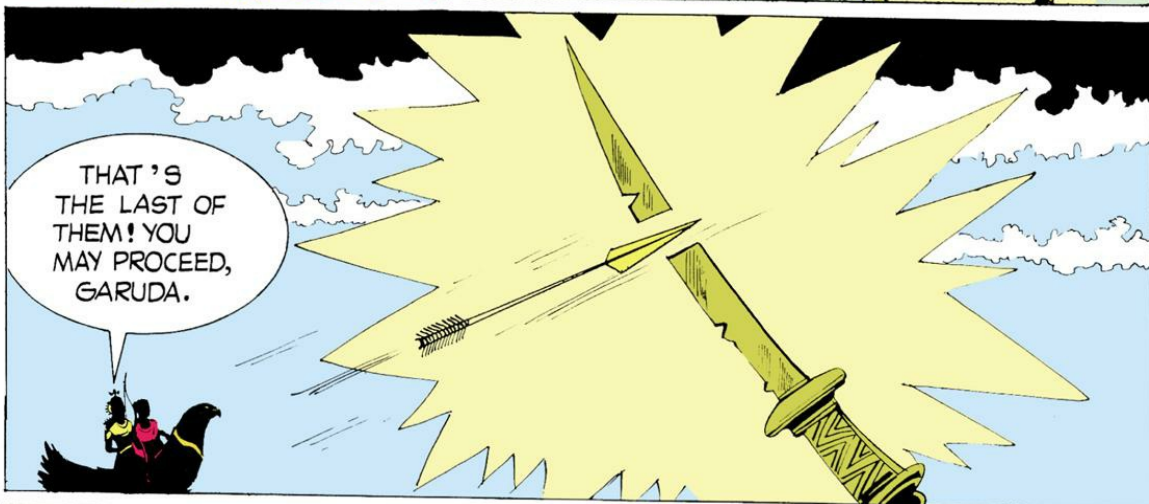
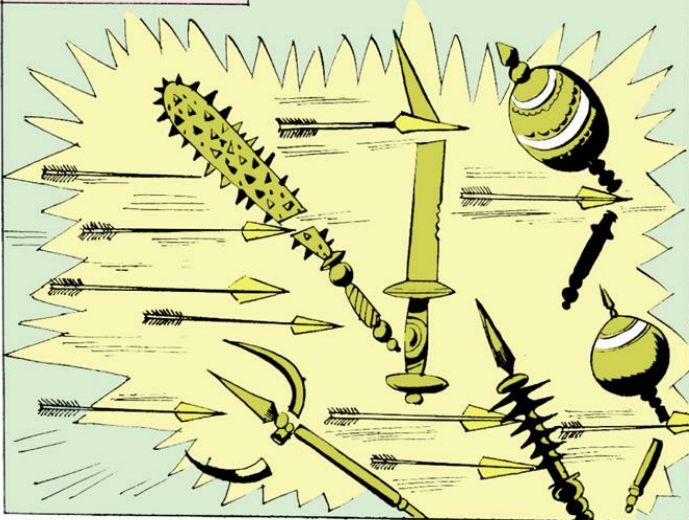
THIS FIRST ARROW WAS FOLLOWED BY A BARRAGE OF WEAPONS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION.



KRISHNA SHOT THE ARROWS FROM HIS INEXHAUSTIBLE QUIVER, IN SUCH QUICK SUCCESSION...



...THAT EVERY SINGLE WEAPON WAS DESTROYED BEFORE IT COULD REACH ANYWHERE NEAR GARUDA OR SATYABHAMA.



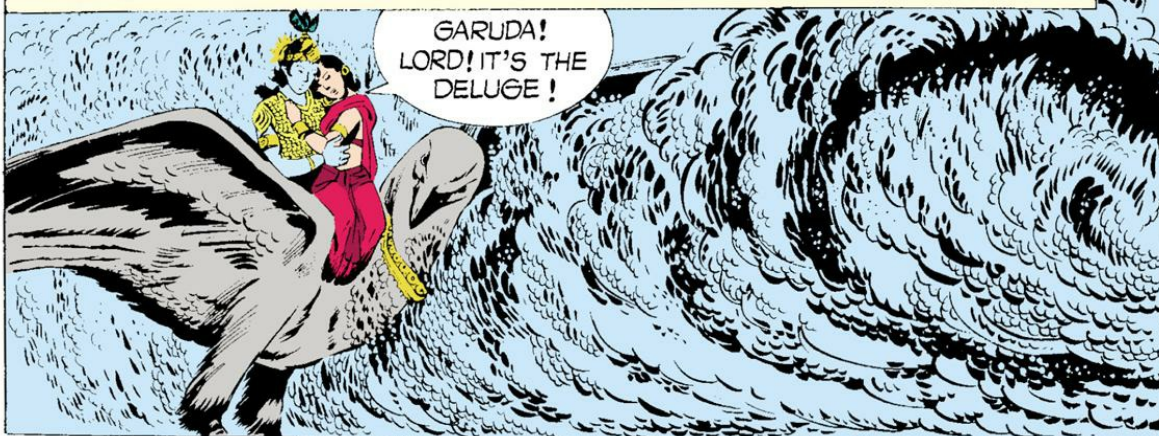
GARUDA, FLAPPED HIS WINGS HARD...



...AND FLEW ON...



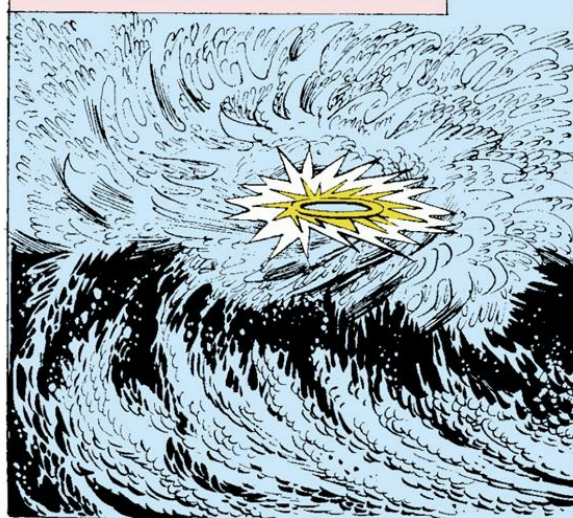
... ONLY TO BE PUSHED BACK BY A SUDDEN SURGE OF HUGE WAVES OF WATER.



UNPERTURBED, KRISHNA
RAISED HIS FINGER.



THE NEXT MOMENT HIS FLYING DISCUS
CUT THROUGH THE WAVES...



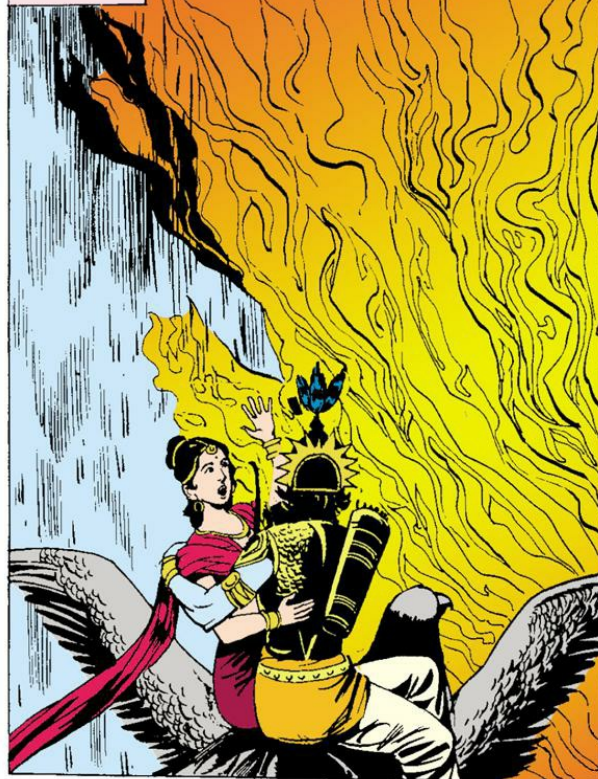
... BREAKING THEM INTO GENTLE,
LIFE-GIVING RAIN.



REFRESHED BY THE COOL SHOWERS,
GARUDA WAS ABOUT TO FLY ON WHEN...



...A HUGE BLAZE EVAPORATED THE RAIN
AND...



...SENT OUT LEAPING TONGUES OF FLAME
TO SCORCH THE INTRUDERS.



BUT THE WHIRLING DISCUS WITH ITS
INCREASING MOMENTUM CUT THROUGH
THE FLAMES.



GARUDA DARTED FORWARD...



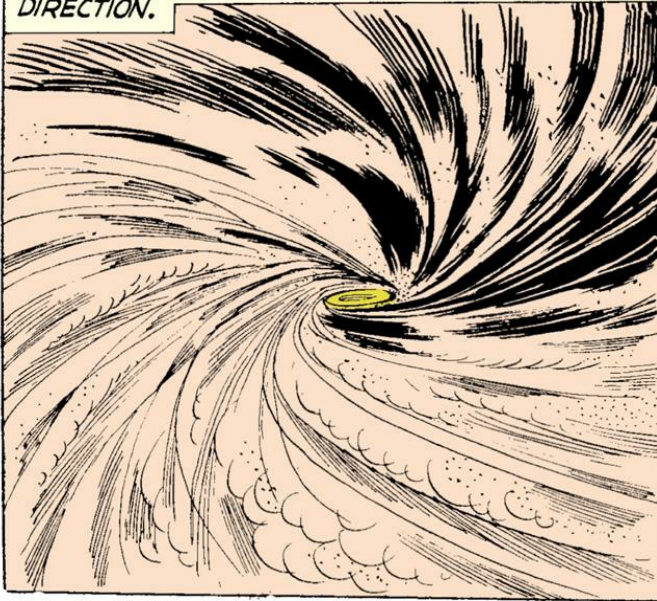
... ONLY TO BE CONFRONTED BY THE
WILDEST OF GALES...



... WHICH KEPT SWEEPING HIM BACK INTO THE FIRE.



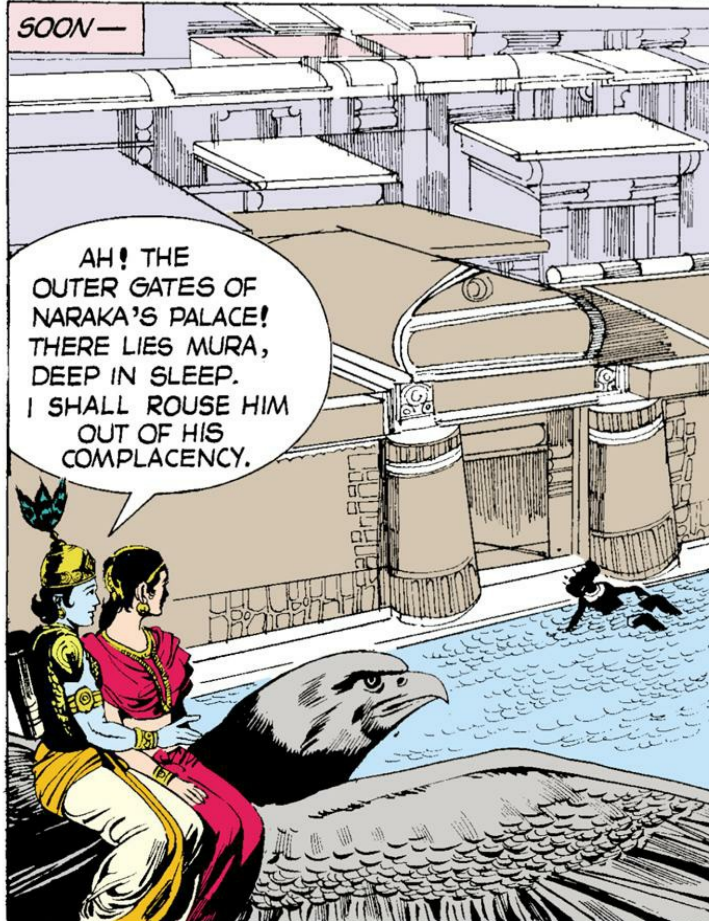
BUT THE DISCUS, WHOSE MOMENTUM NOW MATCHED THAT OF THE CYCLONIC WINDS, WHIRLED THROUGH THE CURRENTS IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION.



THUS THE STORMY WINDS WERE TAMED AND GARUDA FLEW ON.

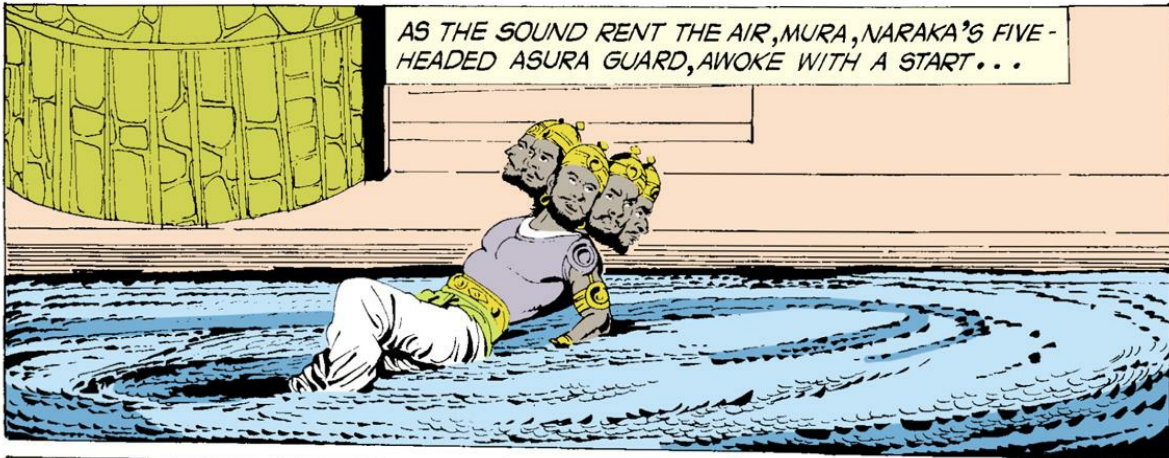


SOON —



KRISHNA RAISED HIS CONCH AND SENT OUT A TRIUMPHANT BLARE.

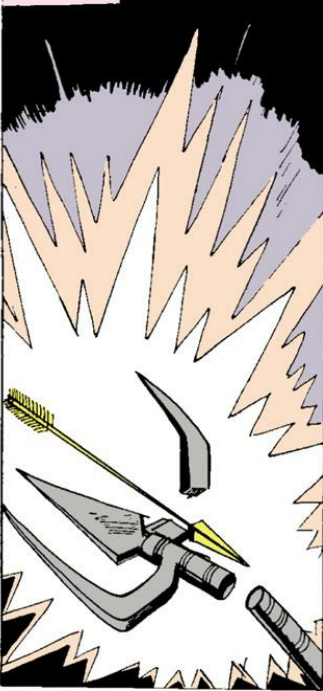




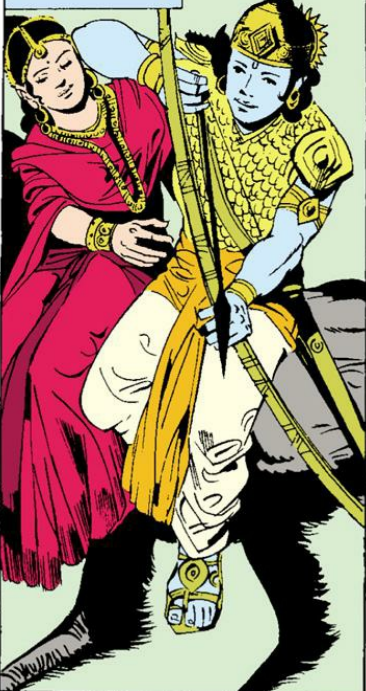
BUT WITH TWO ARROWS SHOT IN QUICK SUCCESSION...



... KRISHNA SPLIT THE WEAPON INTO THREE BEFORE IT COULD TOUCH THEM.



THEN HE SENT HIS STINGING ARROWS INTO THE FIVE GAPING MOUTHS OF THE ASURA.



ROARING WITH PAIN, MURA FLUNG HIS MACE AT KRISHNA...



... ONLY TO HAVE IT BLASTED AGAINST KRISHNA'S RAISED ONE.



INSIDE THE PALACE, THE CLASH OF THE MACES AWOKED NARAKA.



HE WALKED UP TO THE WINDOW AND LOOKED OUT. HE WAS ALARMED BY THE SIGHT THAT MET HIS EYES.



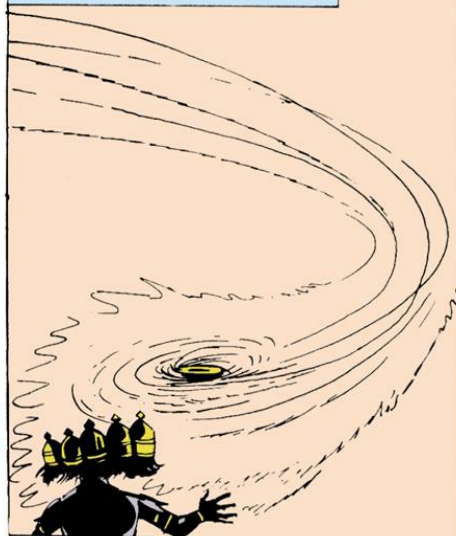
AS NARAKA WATCHED, MURA RUSHED FORWARD BLINDLY TO CRUSH KRISHNA.



BUT SMILING ALL THE WHILE, WITH ONE ARM PROTECTIVELY AROUND SATYABHAMA, KRISHNA RAISED HIS FINGER.



HIS DISCUS CAME SAILING THROUGH THE AIR...

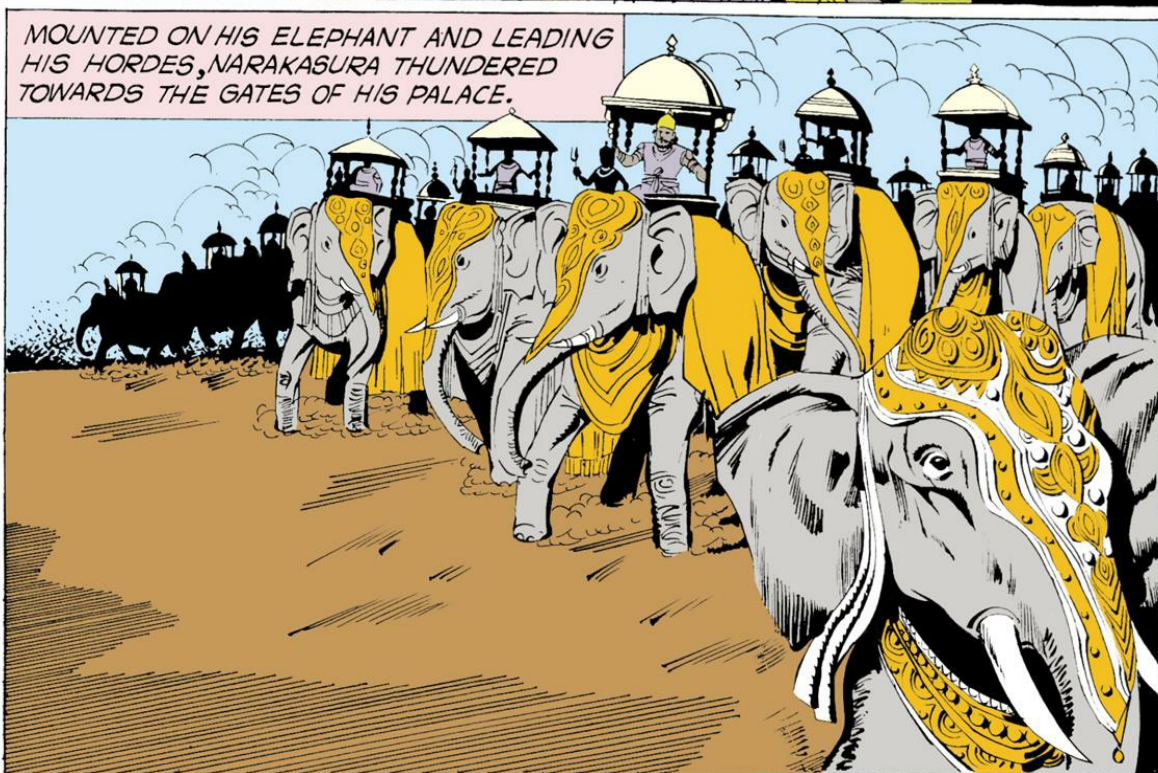
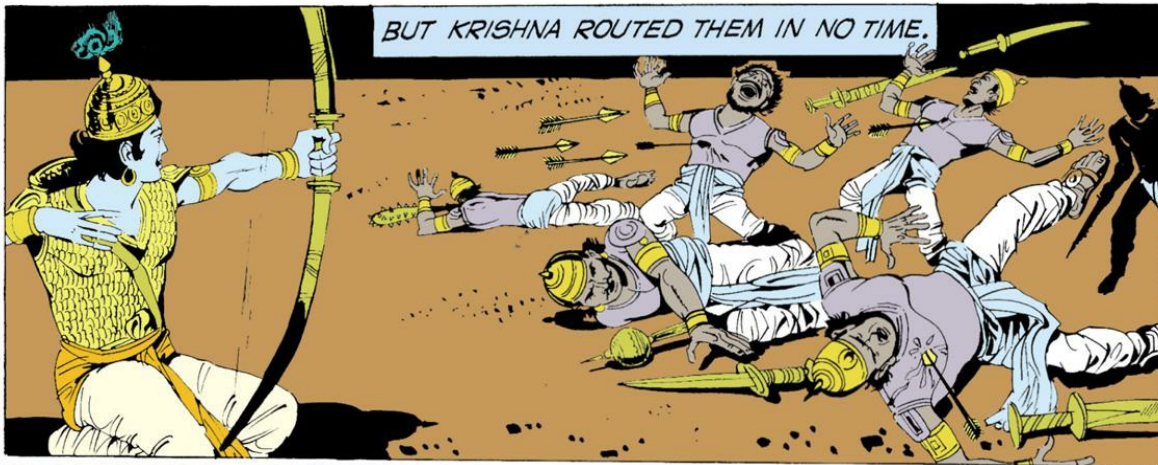


... AND THE NEXT MOMENT, THE WICKED MURA'S HEADS WERE SEVERED FROM HIS BODY.



HEARING HIS ROARS AS HE FELL, MURA'S SEVEN SONS CAME RUSHING OUT WITH MACES, SWORDS AND CLUBS.





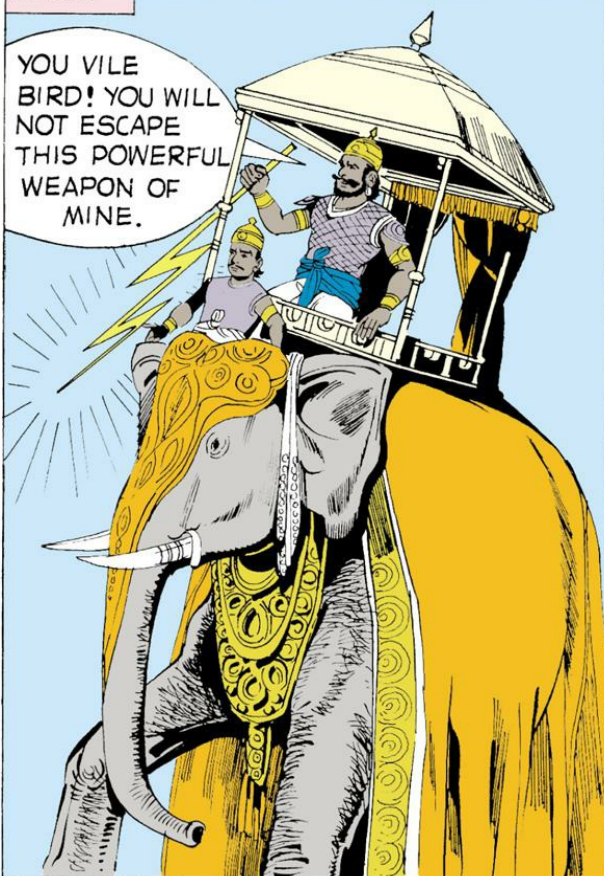
GARUDA FLEW AT THE ELEPHANTS AND ATTACKED THEM WITH BEAK, WING AND CLAW.



THE FRIGHTENED ELEPHANTS
TURNED AWAY...



... AND BEGAN RUNNING BACK TOWARDS
THE PALACE. NARAKASURA WAS LIVID WITH
RAGE.



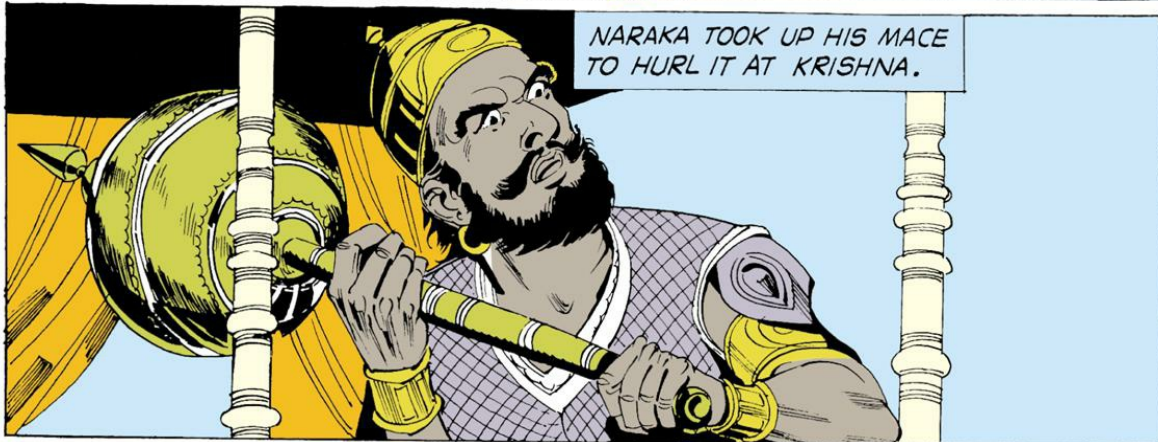
AND NARAKA HURLED THE WEAPON AT GARUDA.



BUT WHEN THAT MIGHTY WEAPON TOUCHED GARUDA, IT DID NOT HAVE THE FORCE OF EVEN A GARLAND OF FLOWERS.



NARAKA TOOK UP HIS MACE TO HURL IT AT KRISHNA.

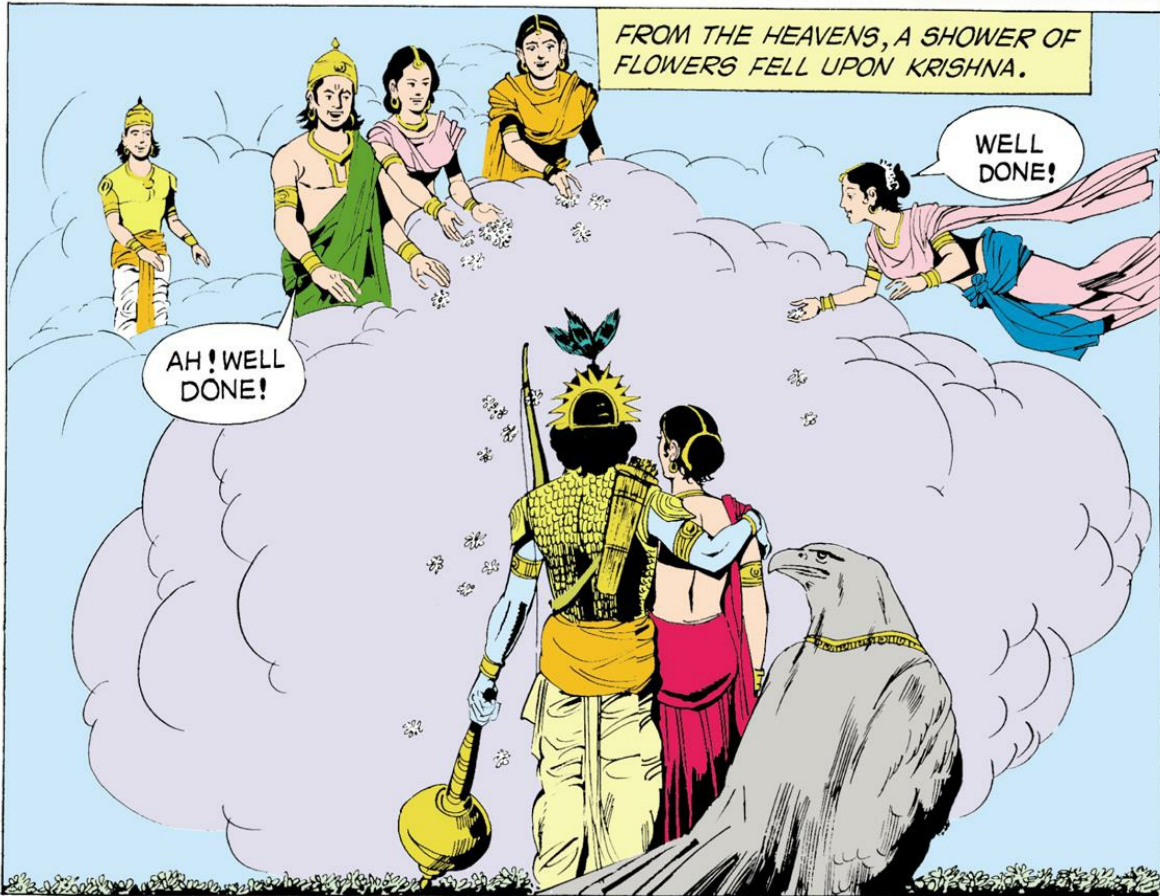


BUT BEFORE HE COULD HURL IT, A WHIRRING SOUND DISTRACTED HIM AND HE LOOKED UP.

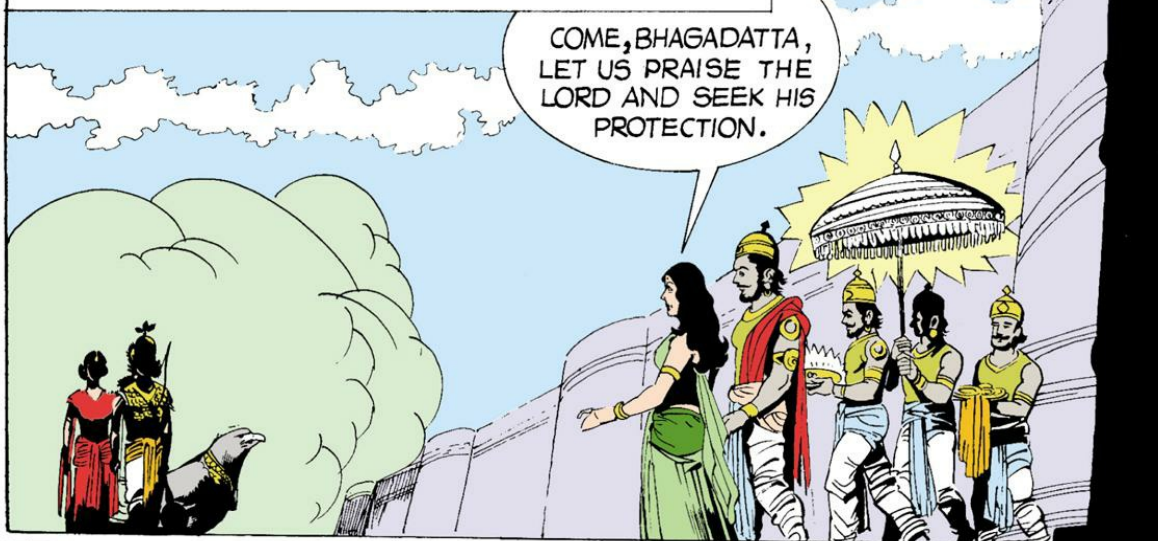




THE MIGHTY NARAKASURA ROLLED OFF HIS ELEPHANT, DEAD.

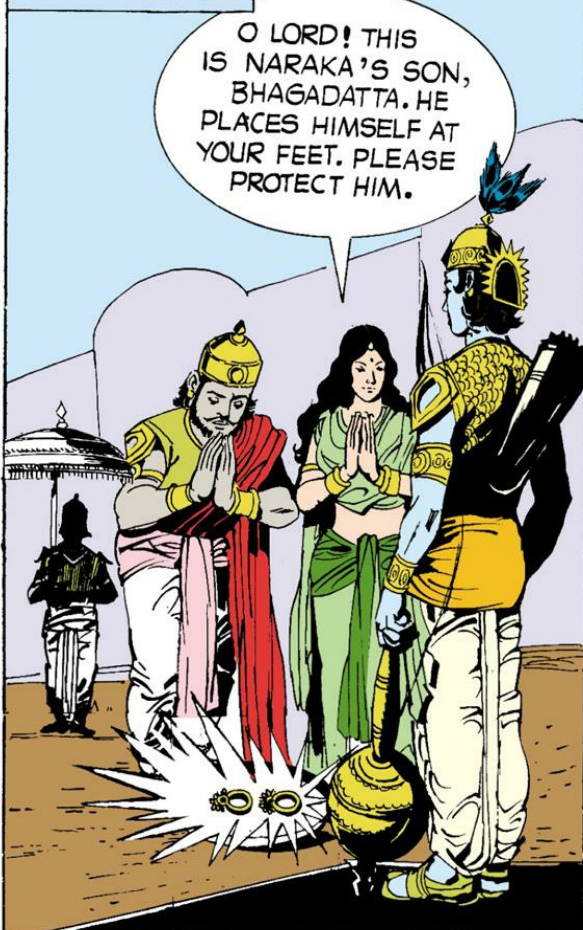


MEANWHILE FOLLOWED BY A YOUNG ASURA, BHOOMI DEVI* CAME TOWARDS KRISHNA WITH ADITI'S EAR-RINGS AND VARUNA'S UMBRELLA.



COME, BHAGADATTA, LET US PRAISE THE LORD AND SEEK HIS PROTECTION.

PLACING THE STOLEN ARTICLES AT HIS FEET, BHOOMI DEVI SANG HYMNS IN PRAISE OF KRISHNA. THEN —



O LORD! THIS IS NARAKA'S SON, BHAGADATTA. HE PLACES HIMSELF AT YOUR FEET. PLEASE PROTECT HIM.

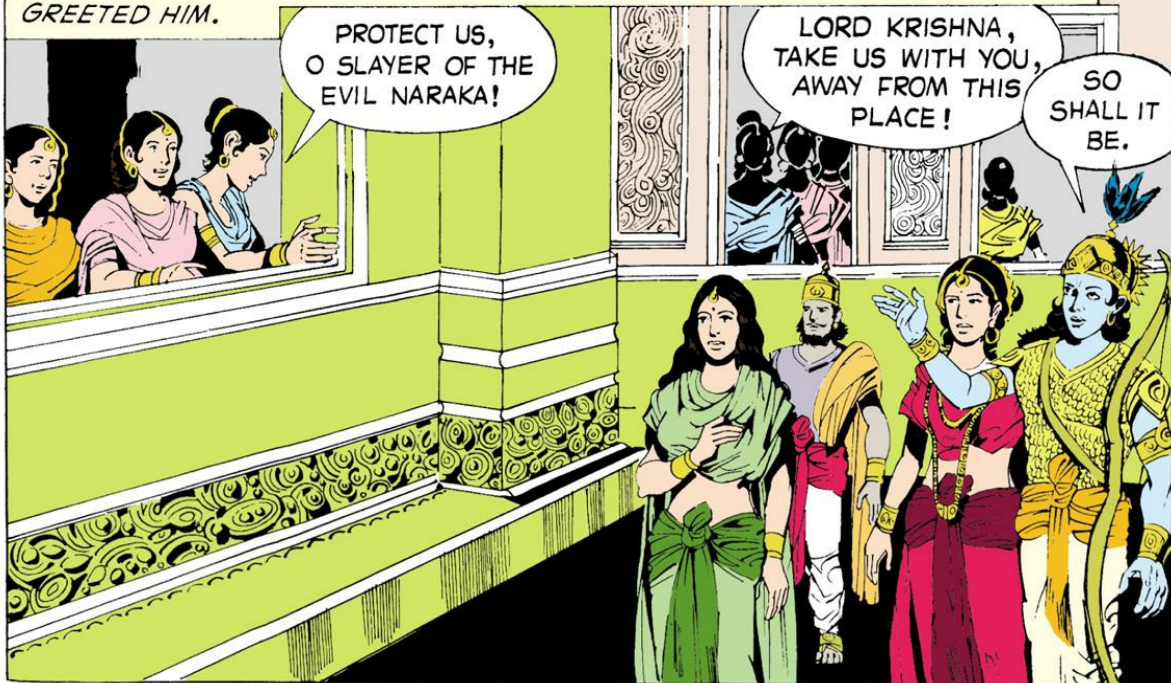
KRISHNA SMILED.



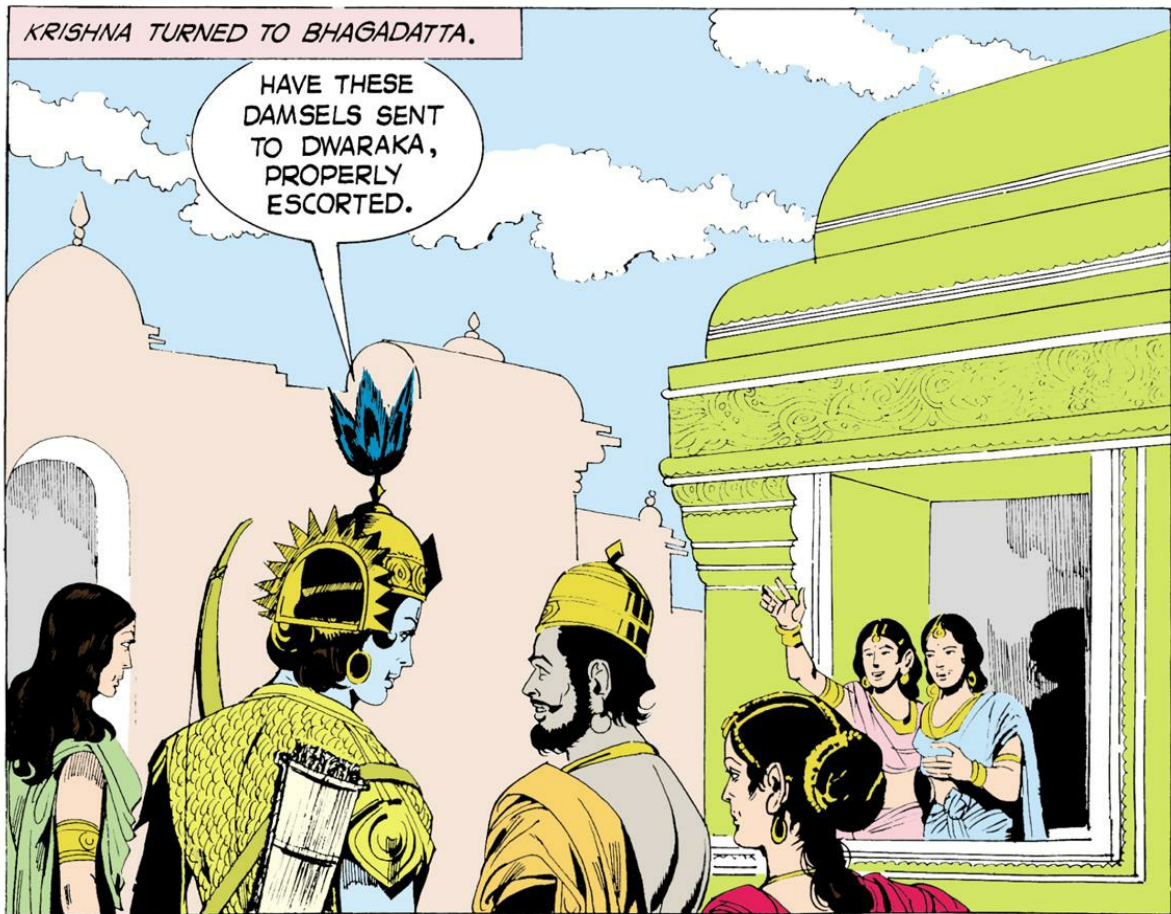
DO NOT FEAR, BHOOMI DEVI. HE SHALL BE INSTALLED ON HIS FATHER'S THRONE. COME, LET US ENTER THE PALACE.

* NARAKASURA'S MOTHER

WHEN KRISHNA ENTERED THE PALACE, THE 16,100 MAIDENS CAPTURED BY NARAKA GREETED HIM.



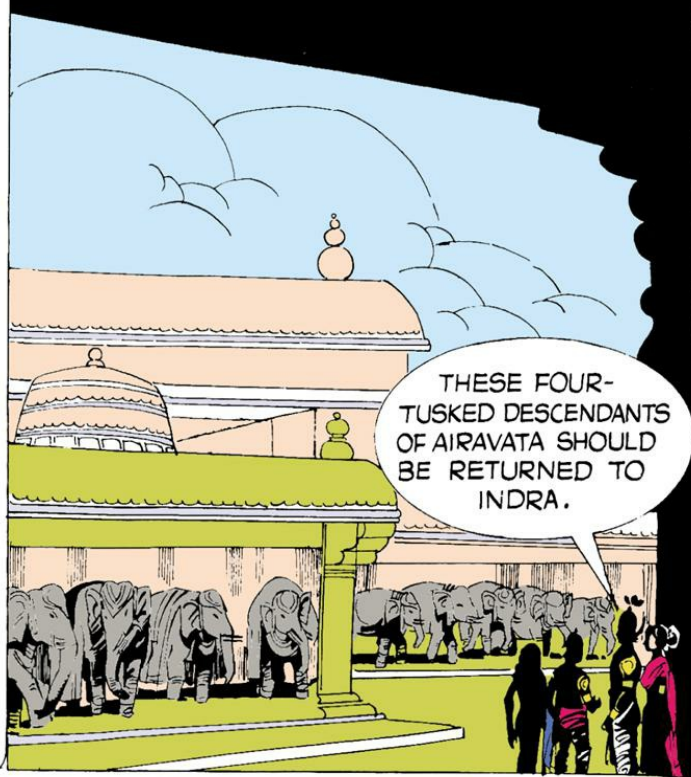
KRISHNA TURNED TO BHAGADATTA.



KRISHNA THEN INSPECTED
NARAKA'S TREASURY.



NEXT HE WENT TO NARAKA'S STABLES.



THEN, MOUNTED ON GARUDA THEY FLEW
TOWARDS AMARAVATI TO DELIVER THE
STOLEN GOODS.



WHICH OF THE ACKs HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

<p>EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i></p> <p>Abhimanyu Agastya Andhaka Aniruddha Aruni And Uttanka Ashwini Kumars Ayyappan Bahubali Bhanumati Bheema And Hanuman Bheeshma Chandrabhasa Dasharatha Dhruva And Ashtavakra Draupadi Drona Elephanta Gandhari Ganesha Ganesha And The Moon Ganga Garuda Ghatotkacha Hanuman Hanuman To The Rescue Harischandra Heroes Of Hampi Indra And Shachi Indra And Shibi Indra And Vritra Jagannatha Of Puri Jayadratha Kacha And Devayani Karna Karttikeya Konark Krishna Krishna And Jarasandha Krishna And Narakasura Krishna And Rukmini Krishna And Shishupala Krishna And The False Vaasudeva Kubera Kumbhakarna Mahabharata Mahiravana Nachiketa Nahusha Nala Damayanti Pareekshit Parashurama Prabhavati Pradyumna Prahlad Purushottam Dev And Padmavati Rama Ravana Humbled Saraswati Sati And Shiva Savitri Shiva Parvati Stories Of Creation Subhadra Sudama Sukanya Surya Tales From The Upanishads Tales Of Arjuna Tales Of Balarama Tales Of Durga Tales Of Indra Tales Of Narada</p>	<p>Tales Of Shiva Tales Of Vishnu Tales Of Yudhishtira Tapati Thanjavur The Churning Of The Ocean The Gita The Golden Mongoose The King In A Parrot's Body The Lord Of Lanka The Pandava Princes The Pandavas In Hiding The Parijata Tree The Sons Of Rama The Syamantaka Gem Tirupati Tripura Uloopi Vaishno Devi Vali Vishwamitra Yayati</p> <p>VISIONARIES <i>Inspiring tales of thinkers, social reformers and nation builders</i></p> <p>Adi Shankara Albert Einstein Anant Pai Babasaheb Ambedkar Basaveshwara Buddha Chaitanya Mahaprabhu Chanakya Chokha Mela Dayananda Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das Eknath Fa Hien Ghanshyamdas Birla Guru Arjan Guru Gobind Singh Guru Har Gobind Guru Nanak Guru Tegh Bahadur Hiuen Tsang J.R.D Tata Jagadis Chandra Bose Jamsetji Tata Jawaharlal Nehru Jayaprakash Narayan Jim Corbett Jnaneshwar Kabir Kalidasa Lal Bahadur Shastri Lokmanya Tilak M. 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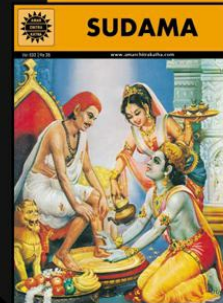
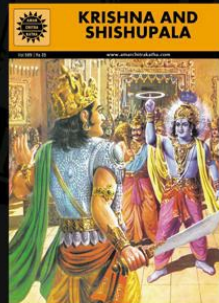
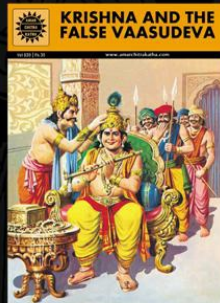


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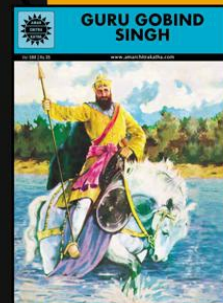
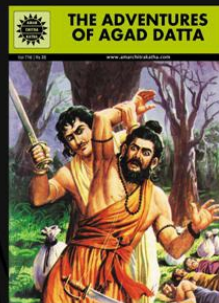
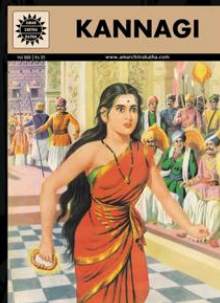
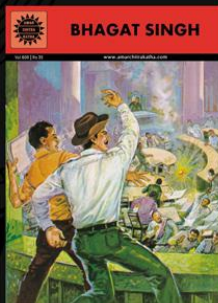
KRISHNA AND NARAKASURA

Indra was at his wit's end – the impertinent demon Narakasura had stolen his mother's earrings! Lord Krishna, always helpful, agreed to confront the enemy. But seated on Garuda, his trusty eagle, and accompanied by the gentle Satyabhama, would Krishna be able to overcome Narakasura's formidable defences? Would his gleaming discus ever find its mark?

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